

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Prentice Computer Centre

NEWSLETTER

authorization: Director of the Centre

1 FREE SPACE ON THE PUBLIC DISK SYSTEM

As most users are aware, disk space is probably the scarcest resource on the PDP-10. This is primarily due to the unexpectedly large growth in the Centre's work load - a 60% increase over last year. It is anticipated that this growth rate will continue for the remainder of 1975. Obviously, we are unable to match this growth with equipment expansion.

To keep the maximum amount of free disk space available, the Centre is currently archiving all files unaccessed for more than 20 days. To maintain the free disk space, the on-line area must be purged frequently and this, in turn, degrades response to retrieve requests.

The amount of free space so generated is the absolute minimum required to keep the system operational and with the growth in load anticipated over the next few months, this position will deteriorate.

Fortunately, many users have heeded our recent requests and voluntarily reduced their use of on-line storage space. Regrettably, others have not.

The second version of the File Migration System being developed to help handle this situation will not be available until 1976.

In the meantime it is proposed that the following changes will be made to the present File Migration System to provide more space.

- (i) Files with the standard system protection code (055) will be archived, as required, to create on-line space. It is envisaged that any such file unaccessed for more than 5 days will be archived.

- (ii) Files with the following extensions will not be archived but will be deleted.

.MAP
.CRF
.TMP
.LPT
.PLT
.LOG

These files which are temporary files and should not be permanently on the disk will be deleted when found.

.BAK will be deleted rather than archived if it has been unaccessed for the purge period.

- (iii) If a file is not to be archived its protection code should be changed from the system default (e.g. to 155). These files will then be subject to present archiving conditions i.e. archived after being unaccessed for 21 days.

It is planned to introduce these changes as soon as possible but before doing so the Centre would be pleased to receive comments from users on this proposal. Comments should be directed to the Operations Manager, Mr. C.C. de Voil.

2 CONSULTATIONS ON STATISTICAL PACKAGES

Currently consulting is provided in this area between the hours of 9.00am-10.00am and 1.30pm-2.30pm at the Commerce Building. Little use has been made of this service perhaps because of the restriction on times. It is felt a better service can be given to users if direct appointments are made with our consultants in this area. From 10 October 1975 users enquiring advice on statistical packages should ring extension 188 (direct 703188) and request an appointment with Mrs. Beverley Delly or Mr. Geoff Dengate.

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3 CHANGES TO THE STANDARD SCHEDULE

In view of the growth in the Centre's work load (60% over last year) and the need to maintain a reasonable level of terminal response, the earliest commencing time for priority 5-9 batch work has been moved to 18.00 hours and for priorities 3 and 4 to 22.00 hours.

Priority 1 and 2 batch work will not be commenced until after midnight and then only provided that it does not prejudice the completion of higher priority work.

Users should note that turnaround time on priority 1 and 2 work may be 1 week.

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